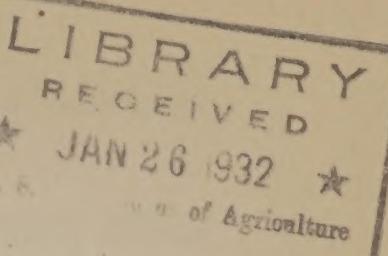


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MEETING - PROGRESSIVE GARDEN CLUB

A radio discussion by members of the Progressive Garden Club, W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, presiding, delivered through WRC and 45 other radio stations, associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Tuesday, December 29, 1931.

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ANNOUNCER:

Another month has rolled around and the members of the Progressive Garden Club are holding their December meeting, the last meeting of the old year, today. Naturally, they are taking a glance backward over the past year's failures and achievements, and making their plans for 1932. Let us join them as they are already seated around the big table in their meeting room.

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AUNT POLLY:

What did Santa Claus bring you, Mr. Brown?

FARMER BROWN:

Why Aunt Polly, I got the usual number of neckties and a couple of pairs of house slippers - that's about all.

BETTY BROWN:

Daddy! You fibber, you know well and good that you got more presents than that. Shame on you.

FARMER BROWN:

Oh yes! I'll admit I did get more than that, especially that nice reading lamp that you and mother gave me. You see, we didn't give very many presents at our house this year, we figured that it would be better to spend what money we could spare buying food and clothing for people who are in real need of help.

MRS. BROWN:

You know, we thought there wasn't much want or distress in our neighborhood, but when we came to investigate, we found several families that are in need of shoes and clothing.

CHAIRMAN:

Yes, Mrs. Brown, there are a good many families that are in need of warm clothing, and a few are in need of food, but I find that most of the people living on farms had good gardens last summer, and have plenty of most kinds of food stored away for winter.

FARMER BROWN:

Yes, that seems to be true everywhere, except in certain sections of the Northwest, where they had a bad drought the past summer. In most other sections, the farmers had good gardens. Take Arkansas, for example, some of those farmers came near starving last year, but they had good crops this year, and have plenty to eat this winter.

CHAIRMAN:

According to reports, practically every one of the 242,000 farmers in Arkansas had gardens last summer. A short time ago, I took a trip through Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, and all along the line I saw butchering being done, and there were great mounds of earth-banks - some people call them, in many of the gardens where potatoes and cabbage and other vegetables were buried for the winter.

FARMER BROWN:

I think, that, taking the country as a whole, the people on farms are in better shape so far as their living is concerned than they were at this time last year. Of course, many of us are wearing our old clothes, but we have plenty to eat.

CHAIRMAN:

Yes, and if many of us had not grown our supply of fruits and vegetables in our gardens, we might have been short of food again this winter, and here is a point that I want you all to get - - - if you don't have the money to purchase your supplies on the market, you are not hurting the commercial growers by growing your own.

MRS. BROWN:

I think we spend more for fresh fruits and vegetables during the winter than we used to.

CHAIRMAN:

No doubt, Mrs. Brown, because our markets are now so constantly supplied with tempting green vegetables all winter, but every farm is, or should be, its own food factory to some degree, at least, and it is our purpose here today to plan ahead for next season.

AUNT POLLY:

Next Friday is New Year's day, and the time for making resolutions.

CHAIRMAN:

But, we want to do something more than make resolutions - - - we want to make definite plans, determine how many potatoes to plant, how many cabbage and tomato plants to set in our gardens. It is time we were thinking about next season.

BETTY BROWN:

I am not making any resolutions, but mother and I do plan to have a wonderful flower garden next summer.

CHAIRMAN:

Good for you, Betty - - - and I hope you win some more prizes.

AUNT POLLY:

Yes, and we are going to celebrate the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington this year, and we want plenty of flowers in honor of his memory.

FARMER BROWN:

That's so! and they tell me that Washington, in addition to being a great statesman and soldier, was a wonderful gardener.

CHAIRMAN:

Yes, the gardens at Mt. Vernon, the home of George Washington, bear testimony to his ability as a gardener, and his love for his home and gardens.

BETTY BROWN:

We are going to plant a tree on our school grounds on Washington's birthday as a part of our exercises.

CHAIRMAN:

That's fine Betty, and I am told that thousands of trees are being planted by the school children of the country this year in memory of Washington. It's a fine idea.

FARMER BROWN:

We plan to make a lot of improvements on our school grounds the coming year. First, we want to level and seed down a part of the grounds, so that the boys and girls will have a better place for their games, then we want to build some walks, and plant a number of trees.

MRS. BROWN:

The grounds around our church need a lot of improvement, and our cemetery is not being kept up as well as it should be.

CHAIRMAN:

People often judge a community very largely by the appearance of its public places such as schools and churches. It is really surprising how much need for improvement you can find when you begin to look around.

FARMER BROWN:

Wouldn't it be a good thing if we had a definite plan or program of improvement of living conditions in our country, with all of the various groups and individuals working along one line? We're going to push the "live at home" idea again the coming year, and we'll need the help of everybody.

(Over)

CHAIRMAN:

Now, see here folks, we've been overlooking something, for in every county where the Cooperative Extension Work is organized, definite programs of work have been adopted, and demonstrations along the line of home improvement, are under way. Mr. Brown has mentioned the "live at home" campaign that is being carried on in many of the States by the Extension agents. We are fortunate today in having as our guest, Mr. J. A. Evans, Associate Chief of the Office of Extension Work, and I am going to ask Mr. Evans to tell us what he considers the surest way to improve living conditions on the farms of the country. What is the plan being followed by the Extension workers, Mr. Evans?

MR. EVANS:

Well, as the surest way to improve living conditions on farms in 1932, Extension workers will again stress a "live-at-home" program. This means that an adequate supply and variety of wholesome food for the family, and ample feed for all the farm animals and poultry, for the entire year should be provided right on the farm. A good home garden is a very important part of this program. Convenience, comfort, and beauty in the home; lovely yards; becoming and proper clothing, are also essential. Extension agents will help and encourage farm families to work out economical ways to accomplish these aims.

MRS. BROWN:

I would like to ask Mr. Evans about how much of the year's food supply for the farm family can be secured from the garden?

MR. EVANS:

Many of our demonstrators last year reported that their gardens reduced their annual food bills in amounts varying from \$75 to \$300. In addition to this, the gardens, in many instances, also were a source of income through the sale of surplus fresh vegetables or canned products. In fact, home demonstration agent reports from South Carolina, and other States, reveal that most of the improvements made in the farm home in 1930, were made possible from the market income of farm women from the vegetables, poultry and eggs, and other home products sold by them on the local markets.

AUNT POLLY:

But, Mr. Evans, I suppose it will always be necessary to buy much of the family food supply, won't it?

MR. EVANS:

Well, of course, such things as coffee, sugar, spices, and many other things, which can't be grown on the place must be bought, but the total amount of food that any good farmer should have to buy during the year is surprisingly small.

FARMER BROWN:

Now, wouldn't it help in planning the size of a garden, and the amounts of the different crops to be planted in the garden, if we knew about what quantity of each vegetable is required to constitute an adequate supply for the family for the whole year? I'd like to ask Mr. Evans if that has been figured out?

MR. EVANS:

Yes, in a number of States. For example, Extension agents in Texas, say that for a farm or ranch family of five in that State, it will take approximately 728 pounds of starchy vegetables, 728 pounds of leafy vegetables, and 728 pounds of other vegetables. One thousand and eighty-five pounds of the various kinds of vegetables is to be canned for a four-month's winter supply. Demonstration gardens are planned by county and home demonstration agents to produce, at least, this quantity with a surplus to sell.

MRS. BROWN:

About how much of the total farm food supply for a year do they figure must be bought?

MR. EVANS:

Why, Mrs. Brown, at local prices, the value of the farm food supply for the year, is estimated to be \$610.29. Of this, only \$63.05 must be bought. The farm is supposed to supply all the rest.

CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Evans, could the members of the Progressive Garden Club get help in working out such a family food supply budget, and in planning a garden that would produce the kind and quantity of vegetables it calls for?

MR. EVANS:

Yes indeed! And that would be a fine thing for them to do. The food and garden specialists at the Agricultural College in your State will be glad to help you do this. Select some member of your club to grow a demonstration garden, and keep careful records of what is produced in it, and of all expenses incurred.

FARMER BROWN:

In your judgment, Mr. Evans, what else could we do to encourage farmers to grow better gardens?

MR. EVANS:

One way is to get other clubs and groups in the county to join you in putting on a garden contest in the county. Business men and organizations would, no doubt, help you to provide several prizes to stimulate interest. Then you might organize one or more garden tours during the summer, and invite everyone to go along and see the demonstration gardens. These are some of the means county and home demonstration agents use to promote better home gardens. In Bryan County, Oklahoma, for example, the agents conducted 14 such garden tours in 1930.

CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Evans, briefly - - - - what are the chief objectives in conducting these home garden demonstrations?

MR. EVANS:

Well, one of the chief objectives has been to increase the supply and variety of green and leafy vegetables for the diet. Other objectives have been to insure the production of sufficient quantities of fruits and vegetables, to insure a canned and stored supply for winter use, and, if practicable, to increase the family income by the sale of the surplus not needed for home use.

FARMER BROWN:

Have the garden demonstrations been quite general throughout the country, Mr. Evans?

MR. EVANS:

States

Yes, quite general. Twenty-one had State-wide garden programs, and 1,119 county extension agents reported that 64,703 adults completed home garden demonstrations in 1930. State-wide garden contests were conducted in Oklahoma, West Virginia, Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Florida. Twenty women in Gadsden County, Florida, kept accurate records of the kinds and amounts of vegetables used by their families, and were surprised to find that their gardens had saved them from \$97 to \$247 on grocery bills. In Arkansas, 2,716 women entered the year-round garden contest and 2,214 completed in spite of the drought conditions during the summer of 1930.

MRS. BROWN:

What do you mean by year-round gardens?

MR. EVANS:

Gardens from which at least two vegetables may be had on every growing day of the year, and enough surplus to be canned or otherwise conserved to supply them in this form during the winter months.

BETTY BROWN:

Mr. Evans, what part have the boys and girls of the 4-H Clubs, taken in this work?

MR. EVANS:

I am glad you asked that question Betty, for the boys and girls of the 4-H Clubs have taken a prominent part in the work, especially in the improvement of living conditions and home surroundings. In 1930, there were 14,364 girls and boys enrolled in yard-improvement clubs. The report also shows that 120,832 boys and girls belonged to home-garden clubs. In addition, a great many of the girls have been enrolled in the canning clubs, and both the girls and the boys in the poultry clubs. Yes Betty, the boys and girls of the 4-H Clubs have done their part.

CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Evans. Now folks, as I see the matter, we have two problems confronting us. One is to work out a plan for our own gardens that will provide us with plenty of vegetables for our own use. The other is to get everybody lined up and working under a general plan for the improvement of living conditions in our county and State. Wherever the county and home demonstration work is established in the county, we should join hands with the county demonstration agents and make use of that organization and its plans for tying the work together.

AUNT POLLY:

Looks to me like we had a pretty big job ahead of us to get everybody pulling together.

CHAIRMAN:

I'll admit it is a big job, but if all of the members of this club will work hard, we will get a lot of people to join the movement for better living conditions in and around our homes. See your county demonstration agents and let's get going. The next meeting of the Progressive Garden Club will be held on the final Tuesday of January, and until then the Club stands adjourned.

ANNOUNCER:

You have just listened to the Progressive Garden Club, and, as its Chairman has said, the next meeting will be held on the final Tuesday in January in connection with the Farm and Home Hour. Those taking part in the program today were Mr. W. R. Beattie, as Chairman, Mr. F. L. Teuton, as Farmer Brown, Miss Norma L. Hughes, as Mrs. Brown, Miss Patricia Beattie, as Betty Brown, Miss Rose Glaspey, as Aunt Polly, and Mr. J. A. Evans, Associate Chief of the Office of Extension Work, as guest speaker.

